



Our Value for November is **UNDERSTANDING**

- **Being aware of the intended meaning of words and deeds**
- **Interpreting explanations and reasons in a thoughtful and balanced way**
- **Recognising the importance of asking questions and listening to answers**

In school pupils will be encouraged to ask questions when they do not understand, especially in their lessons. The importance of speaking and listening will be emphasised as a crucial part of the learning process. As it is time for remembering those who have lost their lives in wars we will try to help the children to understand why Remembrance Day is an important date in our national calendar. We will promote the understanding that we should all be working towards peace in our world starting with ourselves as individuals. We will use stories and examples of occasions when people have not listened to instructions carefully, have therefore misunderstood and the resulting unfortunate consequences. Everyone should remember that one day their safety could depend on them understanding instructions they have been given!!

Thought for the month: 'Seek first to understand and then be understood' *Stephen Covey*

At home you should encourage your children to ask questions if they do not understand and make sure that they listen to your explanations. Try to back up requests with reasons so as to promote understanding, it is so easy to issue orders without explaining why, we all do it! It would be good to share some stories with your children. 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers is particularly appropriate as it demonstrates how long it takes for the boy to understand his friend the penguin and how important this understanding was in the end. You could also watch 'Giraffes Can't Dance' by Giles Andreae on You Tube and see how Gerald the Giraffe eventually learns to dance by listening to and understanding instructions.

